

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DES Announces \$24.6M in Additional CARES Act Funding to Assist Low-Income Individuals Impacted by COVID-19**

**PHOENIX – (May 28, 2020)** The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today it has received \$16.5 million and \$8.1 million in additional CARES Act funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), respectively.

“Additional funding for these programs is crucial, particularly as we enter summer,” said Tom Betlach, from the Office of the Director. “Together with our community partners, we will be able to help more Arizonans with their utility bills, rent and other needs while we continue to recover from the pandemic.”

DES received \$16.5 million in funding for LIHEAP to support low-income families. LIHEAP is primarily used for the provision of assistance with energy bills related to heating and cooling. Funds are also used for home weatherization improvements related to energy efficiency or health and safety. These funds will be critical in assisting Arizona households in cooling their homes during the upcoming hot summer months.

DES also received \$8.1 million in additional CSBG funding. The CSBG provides financial support for services like housing payments, employment assistance, and financial empowerment.

To qualify for LIHEAP or CSBG financial support, the applicant must have an income that falls within the program guidelines. Higher priority *may* be granted if someone in the home is a senior citizen (60 years of age & older), an individual with disabilities or a young child under the age of six years old.

These funds will be critical in assisting Arizona households as a result of the impact of COVID-19. Funds are distributed to the 12 Community Action Agency providers across Arizona. To apply for LIHEAP or CSBG, please contact the local [Community Action Program](#) in your area. [Click here](#) to locate a Community Action Agency nearest you.

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